(c) the reasons for not taking action by Government against the polluting units; and

(d) by when Government would take action against such polluting units?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Starvation deaths of zoo animals

†335. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Sariska Abhayaranya mein bhookh-pyas se mar rahe hain vanya prani", which appeared in the 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated 14th May, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto and the steps being taken by Government to protect the wild animals dying from starvation and thirst in various areas and zoos in the country?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In National Parks/Wildlife Sanctuaries, availability of food and water to wild animals is ensured through habitat and water improvement. This is a sanctioned component of Centrally Sponsored Scheme, Project Tiger. During Ninth Five Year Plan, Rs. 86.00 lakhs . allocation was provided for water and habitat manipulation to Sariska Tiger Reserve. In extreme heat and drought conditions, some mortality of wild animals which are weak or juvenile do take place. The State Government has informed that no large scale mortality of wild animals have been detected in recent past in Sariska Tiger Reserve.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.